DIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Creation of Free Trade Zones

531. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the latest proposals with respect to creating Free Trade Zones in the Country;

(b) the cities, towns or areas which have demanded the creation of such Free Trade Zones; and

(c) what is the criterion for creating Free Trade Zones in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) There are six Export Processing Zones/Free Trade Zones functioning in the country. These are at Kandla (Gujarat), Bombay (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Noida (UP), and Falta (West Bengal). A seventh Export Processing Zone is being established at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

State Governments of Karnataka, MP, Bihar, Sikkim, Punjab, Orissa, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan have, from time to time, requested for the setting up of an Export Processing Zone. The Central Government stand has been that keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing Zones, it would not be possible for the Government to consider developing new Zones in the country.

The criteria kept in mind while locating an EPZ include proximity to sea/airport, availability of basic infrastructural facilities like roads, power and water supply, banking, communication facilities and access to social infrastructure such as housing, health, educational, entertainment facilities etc.

Target for Expansion of Agricultural and Allied Products

532. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated target for exports of agricultural and allied commodities during 1992-93 and what is the actual achievement stating the earnings in terms of foreign exchange and the shortfall, if any, in the anticipated target; and

(b) what is the anticipated export target for agricultural and allied commodities during 1993-94 stating the manner in which the target is proposed to be achieved and the anticipated percentage of growth in terms of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The target was US $ 2000 million while the achievement was US $ 1946 million.

(b) The target fixed for 1993-94 is US $ 2255 million, a growth rate of above 15% on the provisional export figures for 1992-93. Government is giving special attention to the growth of exports in the agricultural sector. Towards this end in view, EXIM Policy 1992-97 has been further liberalised and the import duties on certain inputs and materials required by the agricultural sector have been lowered and made freely importable. Various incentives have also been included for the agricultural sector in the 1993-94 budget. These changes are expected to give an impetus to agricultural exports.

533. *[Transferred to 10th August, 1993]*.

Compilation of Commonly Used Items by DGS&D

534. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether DGS&D has compiled a list of common users items pursuant to its rationalisation and/or decentralisation, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether DGS&D holds RC for each such item;

(c) if not, what are the items for which RC could not be concluded, the pendency of delays in each such case and reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government envisage to revamp the organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Bringing of common user items on Rate Contracts is a continuous process and the number of such items does not remain constant. As on 27-7-93 there were 224 number of items for which Rate Contracts were valid and there were another 53 items for which rate contracts were not valid.

(c) While every effort is made to finalise R/Cs in time, delays at times are unavoidable due to several reasons, some of which are decontrol of prices of essential raw materials, changes in duty structure, litigation, lack of drawals etc.

(d) The Government had reviewed the working of the DGS&D at the time of deciding on decentralisation of certain purchase functions which have been transferred to other Ministries/Departments. Some of the important steps which have been taken in the recent past are:

(i) Close monitoring of R/Cs with a view to avoid any delay in finalisation of Rate Contracts;

(ii) Creation of a separate cell in the DGS&D to exclusively cater to the procurement needs of various projects assisted by World Bank/International Agencies.

(iii) Giving necessary thrust and impetus for procurement of more sophisticated and high tech. items and cutting down on procurement of traditional items.

(iv) Extending computerisation to cover essential functions/activities.

Production and Export of Earl Grey Tea

535. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production and sale of Earl Grey Tea produced by the Tea Trading Corporation of India during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of Earl Grey Tea exported during the same period;

(c) whether the TTCI has entered into any agreement with the Twinings company of U. K. which produces the Earl Grey Tea; and

(d) what are the herbs with which Indian Tea is blended in order to produce the Earl Grey Tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Total Quantities of tea with Earl Grey flavour produced and exported by TTCI during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Quantity (in Kgs.)
1990-91	79.68
1991-92	18.00
1992-93	Nil

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Earl Grey is a flavouring agent which is reportedly sprayed on tea under certain predetermined conditions. No herb as such is reportedly blended with tea to make it Earl Grey Tea.

Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics

536. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present set up of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics;

(b) whether the Statistics collected by the Directorate is made available to the Members of Parliament;

(c) what are the publications of this Directorate; and

(d) what is the annual expenditure incurred on this Directorate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, a subordinate office of Ministry of Commerce, is the primary agency of the Government for collection, compilation, processing and dissemina-